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**“Rocket attacks from Hamas-controlled Gaza into Israel are designed to inflict fear into the lives of innocent civilians. The attacks are a cowardly act of terror and should immediately stop. Israel has an undeniable right to take action to defend its people.”**

**“As we begin a new year I am hopeful both sides accept a truce that is respected by Hamas. Shortly the United States will be swearing in a new President who is committed to taking a more hands-on approach to peace in the Middle East . Today the Palestinian and Israeli people have the opportunity to take the first step and show the world that they are willing to live peacefully with one another.”**

**-- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03)**

*Vice Chair International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight Subcommittee and  
Member of Middle East & South Asia Subcommittee*